

## Unusual plumage variation of the Whitethroat *Sylvia c. communis* Latham

By Mr. BRYAN L. SAGE.

On 15th May, 1949, at East Lulworth, Dorset, I trapped an adult bird of this species which exhibited an unusual variation in the plumage of the under-parts. Each of the feathers forming the white patch on the chin and throat had a distinct black tip, giving this area a black speckled appearance as opposed to the normal white colour. This specimen also differed from typical individuals of this species in having distinctly reddish legs and tarsi instead of the usual pale brown.

The bird was otherwise normal in appearance, behaviour and measurements. The wing was 74 mm., tail 62 mm., tarsus 21 mm. bill greyish-brown with the usual bluish-flesh tinge on the basal half of the lower mandible, measurement from the skull 13 mm.

I watched this bird for some time after I had released it; the song was normal and it associated freely with two normal individuals but I was unable to ascertain whether or not there was a nest in the vicinity. I have been unable to find any mention of variations of this nature in the published plumage descriptions of the species.

## A change of name for a Green Pigeon from the Philippine Islands.

By the MARQUIS MASA U. HACHISUKA.

According to the modern classification *Sphenurus*, 1837 and *Treron*, 1816 are united, thus the former name becomes a synonym of the latter. Biswas has already given the reason for such a change in Bull. B.O.C. 70, p. 34, 1950.

This action invalidates the use of *Sphenurus formosae australis* (McGregor) (*Sphenocercus australis* McGregor, *Philip. Journ. Sci.*, 2, sect. A, p. 344, 1907 from islands between Formosa and Luzon) as we already have *Treron australis* (Linnaeus) (*Columba australis*) Linnaeus, *Mantissa*, p. 526, 1771 from Madagascar). I, therefore, propose:—

*Treron formosae filipina* nom. nov. for *Treron formosae australis* (McGregor), *Philip. Journ. Sci.* 2, sect. A, p. 344, 1907, NOT *Treron australis* (Linnaeus), *Mantissa*, p. 526, 1771.

## A new race of *Nicator* from Angola.

By Dr. WILLIAM SERLE.

*Nicator vireo tando*, new race.

*Description*.—Distinguished from *Nicator vireo vireo* Cabanis by the lighter grey of the forehead, by the brighter green of the occiput, mantle, back, rump, and upper tail-coverts, by the lighter grey of the breast and belly, and by the paler yellow under tail-coverts.